

House (EASTBURN)

North side of Pleasant Hill Road

(Newark RD 3) about .5 mile west of
intersection with Paper Mill Road

(State Route 72)

Newark Vicinity (Corner Ketch, Mill Creek Hundred)

New Castle County

Delaware

HABS No. DEL-166

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HOUSE

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Location: North side of Pleasant Hill Road (Newark RD 3) about .5 mile west of intersection with Paper Mill Road (State Route 72), Newark Vicinity (Corner Ketch, Mill Creek Hundred), New Castle County, Delaware.

Present Owner: Mr. H. Emerson Eastburn, Mt. Cuba, Delaware.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Garnett Alley.

Present Use: Tenant house.

Statement of Significance: A small rural structure, probably built in two stages and typical of the region's early farm-houses. The older portion of this structure may date from the late seventeenth century as suggested by the corner location of the fireplace and chimney in this portion.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The original ownership has not been determined. In 1849 the Rea and Price map shows two structures in the area labeled "J. Stinson (and) Shop."
2. Date of erection: "Early 18th C." (Bennett, George F., Early Architecture of Delaware)
3. Original plan: Western section of one room at first floor level and one room and attic above seems to predate the eastern section of one room above cellar with one room and attic above.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Besides the later eastern section, a shed porch roof on the south side has been replaced by two smaller roof surfaces. The contour of the ground to the northwest has been lowered making the second floor north exterior door no longer usable. The large east chimney has been replaced by a smaller chimney.
5. Important old views: An excellent exterior photograph (early twentieth century) on page 51 of George F. Bennett's Early Architecture of Delaware.

B. Sources of Information:

Bennett, George F., Early Architecture of Delaware (Wilmington: Historical Press, 1932), p. 51.

Rea, Samuel M. and Price, Jacob, "Map of New Castle County, Delaware" (Philadelphia: Smith and Wistar, 1849).

Prepared by William B. Bassett
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
June 1965

With the co-operation of Robert L. Raley, AIA

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This house is typical of the region's early farmhouses. Physical evidence seems to indicate an earlier date for the western section of the structure.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A two-story structure, seventeen feet wide by forty feet front.
2. Foundations: Stone rubble and mortar.
3. Wall construction: Eighteen inch thick rubble and mortar walls with whitewashed exterior surface.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Concrete bulkhead leading down to cellar on eastern end of southwest wall.
5. Chimneys: One large end wall chimney of stone rubble and mortar at western end and smaller end wall chimney of stone rubble and mortar at eastern end.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Wooden main door in southeast elevation of newer east section has an approach of two concrete exterior steps, an inset of approximately two feet, a simple pedimented hood on diagonal wooden props and plain wooden trim.

Low wooden kitchen door in southeast elevation of older western section has a simple shed roof porch and simple wooden trim.

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- b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung wooden sash with three lights over six lights with plain pegged wooden surrounds in older western section. There are two over two lights and six over six lights double-hung wooden sash in the newer eastern section. No shutters on either section.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with metal standing seam surface covering former shingle roof over shingle lath on 2-1/2" x 6" roof rafters at 33" on center.
- b. Cornice: Plain wooden box cornice.
- c. Dormers, cupolas: None.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans and stairways: A two-room floor plan. The older western half contains a kitchen room at ground level; the eastern half contains a living room (up three risers from kitchen). A center enclosed wooden stairway between the two rooms leads up twelve risers to a lower bedroom over the kitchen and thirty-four inches higher to another bedroom and bath over the living room. On the second floor a nine-riser stair against the west wall of the west bedroom leads up to the attic, which is divided into two parts by an interior wall with a single window in it (a clear indication that the house was built in two stages). A dirt floor cellar is entered by the bulkhead to the northeast. The cellar is only under the eastern section.
2. Flooring: Three-inch yellow pine boards on 3" x 6" beams at 24" on center on first floor of eastern section. Six-inch yellow pine boards in second-floor bedrooms. Nineteen-inch pine boards on attic floor.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster with quadrant reveals at window openings. Rough plaster on lath ceiling between roof rafters in attic. Ceiling height of bedrooms 6'-9". In kitchen, ceiling is kraft paper over what appears to be 6" log joist.
4. Doorways and doors: Painted vertical board doors with simple wooden trim.

5. Trim: Simple painted six-inch wooden baseboards throughout.
 6. Heating: End fireplaces now blocked in; contemporary central heating now installed. HABS
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- D. Site: The house sits approximately one hundred feet northeast of Pleasant Hill Road in a farming section. A concrete terrace, approximately six feet wide, borders the southeast side of structure from west end to west side of cellar bulkhead. 1-

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